

Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07

NSC-10 SS-15 SCS-03 /096 R

DRAFTED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS:GM

APPROVED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS

USIA/IEA:MR.HARRIS

EA/TB:MR.DEXTER

EA/K:MR.RANARD

----- 068327

P R 102210Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: RADIO OF FREE ASIA

REF: BANGKOK 15807 (BEING REPEATED)

1. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT "RADIO OF FREE ASIA" (ROFA) HAS FOR SOME TIME BROADCAST MESSAGES CONCERNING AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION PERSONNEL IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA ON SOUTH KOREAN RADIO FACILITIES. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ROFA BROADCASTS PRIMARILY ON ROK RADIO, NOT ON THAI FACILITIES AND MOST ASSUREDLY NOT ON VOA FACILITIES.

2. WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT ROFA MAY HAVE PURCHASED TIME ON LAO COMMERCIAL RADIO TO BROADCAST MESSAGES SUCH

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AS THE ONE REPORTED REFTEL. THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH

1971 ROFA FUNDS SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ROFA PLANNED TO BROADCAST PW/MIA MESSAGES ON "PRIVATE BROADCAST FACILITIES" IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND LAOS. REFTEL IS FIRST CONFIRMATION WE HAVE SEEN THAT SUCH BROADCASTS ARE BEING MADE BY ROFA.

3. SUGGEST POSTS ADVISE DR. BLATTER THAT ROFA IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION (INCORPORATED IN MARYLAND IN 1964) WHICH HAS BROADCAST A STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST LINE AIMED AT PRC AND NORTH KOREA SINCE 1966, AND TO NORTH VIETNAM SINCE 1970. WITH EXCEPTION OF MESSAGES ON "PRIVATE FACILITIES" NOTED ABOVE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ALL ROFA BROADCASTS EMANATE FROM SEOUL ON TRANSMITTERS LEASED WITHOUT CHARGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THE USG HAS NEVER SUBSIDIZED OR IN ANY WAY ASSISTED EITHER ROFA OR ITS PARENT ORGANIZATION, THE "KOREAN CULTURAL AND FREEDOM FOUNDATION." WE HAVE ADVISED PW/MIA RELATIVES AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ROFA'S MIA MESSAGES HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE.

4. SUGGEST BANGKOK ALSO CLARIFY WITH DR. XUTO. KISSINGER

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